

Camp John Wise Texas  
June 7, 1918.

Dear Mr Silvers —

I received your two letters in the last two days — the one concerning commencement and the other with the incident of Dandy Fergusson's agricultural attempts in planting the iron. The indefiniteness in the warehouse is because I can't remember them and I just sent both of them to Tracy Elmendorf '16 whom I ran across at Kelly Field a few weeks ago and I thought — fast is slow — he would appreciate it if he hadn't received the same which very likely he has but no harm is done at least. Rather a long lapse of time one ~~would~~ think but they were held over at Kelly Field for some time and then sent here.

I was transferred to this camp March 5th and so have been here quite some time. This place is the army balloon school and there are about 50 every day — these are captive balloons of course and used for observation. I have run up a couple times though that is not my capacity here but I surely do like it and hope to be able to do more of it in



the future.

We are having quite some weather in this section just at present and of course it is ~~quite~~ real warm here in the summer time. We had 106° in the shade the other day but no shade!

I want to express my gratitude to the Bureau because such news is always welcome and I surely appreciate the action they have taken.

Remember me to Old Father!

Gowex20.



June 12,  
1918.

Corporal E. J. Rowe,  
Headquarters, Camp John Wise,  
San Antonio, Tex.

My dear Mr. Rowe:

It was good of you to write your interesting letter of June 7th and I am mighty glad to hear about your experiences. I hope that you may continue to receive the War Service letters and that you will keep in touch with me throughout the war.

With all good wishes, I am

Cordially yours,

ERS/W



POST CARD

JUL  
15



Earl Reed Silvers

Rutgers College

New Brunswick, N. J.

July 13<sup>th</sup>

Dear Carl —

Just received the last letter  
+ was mighty glad to get the news.  
forwarded from Camp Wise.

Have only been here a short time.

This is such a change from  
San Antonio and the part of the  
country we came from — thru  
Arizona + New Mex. There are  
orange groves all over the country  
and along all the roads. Los  
Angeles is about 12 miles from  
here + the beach about the same  
distance in another direction from  
Los Angeles.

Have been accepted by the Aviation  
Examining Board for flying and am  
able to call at any time. Ground school  
at Univ. of Calif. very likely.

Was transferred to 38<sup>th</sup> address:  
38<sup>th</sup> Balloon Company  
Edward J. Rowe. 20 Arcadia, California





ARMY AND NAVY  
YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION  
"WITH THE COLORS"



Berkeley California  
August 25<sup>th</sup> '18.

Dear Silvers —

My address has been changed again and as I still would like to get a circular occasionally I won't find any time for informing you better than right now.

I was ordered to report for training here on August 29<sup>th</sup> yesterday and my section starts into morning. We have a 13 weeks course and a pretty thorough one I guess after which comes our flying through I don't know where I'll go for that — However, the ground school will keep me busy for sometime.

It seems the whole of California is covered with flowers and trees of various species — except down near Yuma Arizona — that part of California is still desert. But the section around Los Angeles where I just came from



has the record for fruit producing in the U. S. We had access to the orange groves quite frequently and though it was not the best season for them we were well satisfied with what was there at the time.

The people of Southern California were the most hospitable people to the soldiers that I have met since I have been in the service and the people here seem to have much the same attitude.

I have only been here a few days but I know I shall like the surroundings. We occupy some of the buildings of the University of California and are right here on the campus. I believe the University opens on October first.

The weather here is cooler than at Arcadia though it isn't supposed to freeze here. You see I am the least bit cautious about accepting anything definite about the weather because of the fact that at Arcadia we weren't supposed to have any rain and the entire balloon company slept out under





ARMY AND NAVY  
YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION  
"WITH THE COLORS"



neath the stars until about 2:00 A.M. one morning when it started to rain hammerhounds for a few minutes and they commenced the wild scramble for shelter. Our barracks had, as yet, not been completed so we were obliged to make the best of it.

Our accommodations are much better here than as enlisted men as we are allowed to wear any regulation uniform and have real good barracks and a good mess.

I went over to "Frisco" the other day a distance of nine miles from here - and had much the same feeling as going over the Hudson when ferrying over the Bay. I visited the various points of interest that I had time for but the city does not have the hustle and rush of New York though it is mighty busy.

The canteens here are a very good



bunch of fellows and come from various parts of the country - mostly the west and middle west with a few from the east.

Remember me to old Rutgers and the fellows when they come back - I'd like to hear from some of the class of '20 if you ever happen to get in touch with those who are still there.

Many thanks for the circulars and I hope to receive more of them.

Ed Rowe.



September 5, 1918.

Mr. Ed. Rowe,  
Berkely California.

Dear Mr. Rowe:

Thank you very much for your letter of August 25th containing the most interesting account of your service career. I hope that you will get everything possible out of your stay in California and that you will not forget to dropt me an occasional line.

Very truly yours,

Director.

ERS/H